



NEWS RELEASE

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Six Families Complete USDA Rural Development Funded Homes In Junction City

29 Junction City Homes Now Occupied, 6 More Houses Planned In 2006

Junction City, KS. – USDA Rural Development State Director Chuck Banks joined six families Saturday who have just completed building their homes by participating in the Agency's *Mutual Self-Help Housing Program* in Junction City. Also present for the ribbon cutting and 'moving-in' ceremony were officials from Self-Help Housing of Junction City, USDA Rural Development's local technical assistance partner for the *Mutual Self-Help Housing Program*. Six additional houses are planned for completion during 2006 in Junction City under this USDA housing program.

In remarks during the ceremony, State Director Banks commented, "USDA Rural Development has a long history of providing funding assistance to improve affordable housing opportunities in Kansas. Expanding homeownership is important, given housing's link to personal economic prosperity. USDA Rural Development will continue to provide funding and technical assistance support for achieving this important goal through the Agency's *Mutual Self-Help Housing Program* and *Single-Family Housing Loan Program* across Kansas."

Junction City Mayor Jack Taylor remarked, "Junction City appreciates its outstanding partnership with USDA Rural Development. In addition to helping these families build their own home to live in, this program is helping expand needed housing in this area".

State Director Banks also commented during the ceremony, "To date, through the partnership with Self-Help Housing of Junction City, USDA Rural Development's *Mutual Self-Help Housing Program* has resulted in 29 families construction their own home in Junction City. Since 2002 USDA Rural Development has invested over \$3 million in funding to support this important home-building effort in Geary County, resulting in an estimated positive economic impact of over \$9 million benefiting the local region."

As a condition of this Agency program, future homeowners are required to personally supply 65% of the labor to construct their house. With the assistance of four non-profit housing partners, USDA Rural Development's *Mutual Self-Help Housing Program* has resulted in the completion of nearly 200 new single-family homes in Kansas since 1998.

In addition to the USDA *Mutual Self-Help Housing Program*, the Agency has been active in supporting the expansion of personnel at Fort Riley. Recently USDA Rural Development announced that the Agency would host a second round 'Fort Riley Regional Initiative' informational meeting in Junction City on April 18th. The Agency meeting, to be co-hosted with the Junction City-Geary County Military Affairs Council, will cover USDA Rural Development programs available to address the housing and community development needs which will be occurring in the region.

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The USDA Rural Development April 18th meeting will cover the Agency's housing and business/community development programs. Individual breakout sessions will be presented for: [1] Homebuilders / Developers, [2] Realtors, [3] Public bodies (Infrastructure / Community Facilities), [4] Business development entities, [5] Community nonprofits / Faith-based organizations. The meeting is open to all interested individuals, organizations and businesses. The location and time of the meeting follows:

Geary County Convention Center / April 18, 2006: 310 Hammons Drive (next to Courtyard by Marriott - located at I-70 Exit 298), Junction City.
Registration will begin at 8:15 a.m., the General Session and Breakout Sessions will be from 9:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

Individuals and businesses interested in learning more about USDA Rural Development's programs offered in the Fort Riley area, in addition to north central and northeast Kansas, may contact the Agency's Manhattan office at 785-776-7582 (extension #4).

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs that support increasing economic opportunity and improving the quality of life of the State's rural residents. The Agency provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure in rural America. During Fiscal Year 2005, USDA Rural Development provided nearly \$235 million in direct funding for community and economic development projects across rural Kansas. For additional information, log onto the state's Rural Development website at: www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks .

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